



This picture was taken on March 2, 2004, at the scene of a fire in Mesquite, Texas (near Dallas). When emergency personnel arrived, their 800 MHz radios were inoperable due to interference caused by Nextel transmissions from the pictured tower. In a twist of luck, the “first engine” was delayed. Otherwise, firefighters from the first engine would have entered the flaming building immediately, without the ability to send or receive radio communications (e.g., an evacuation order). Radios at the scene either did not work at all, or received excessive “static.” The interference was eliminated nine days later, after Nextel changed frequencies at the site.

For further information regarding this incident, contact Assistant Fire Chief Jimmy Roland, City of Mesquite Fire Department, 972-216-6306